United Nations A/70/974

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 June 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 112 (a)
Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs: election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

Letter dated 30 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing to you in connection to your letter dated 29 June 2016, indicating the date and time of the General Assembly meeting to elect non-permanent members to the Security Council and to the letter from the Permanent Representatives of Italy and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, expressing the intent of the two countries to split the term of membership between them.

We have taken note of the letter and its contents and would like to convey our understanding that the aforementioned agreement between Italy and the Kingdom of the Netherlands is an exceptional case and, as such, will not lay the groundwork for such a practice to become the norm in the future. We would also like to emphasize that the agreement reached by the two candidates is of a bilateral nature and will have no legal or procedural implications on the proceedings of future elections and candidatures to Security Council membership.

Since 1964, the two-year term has been strictly observed by all countries running for, and subsequently winning, Security Council membership. This embodies the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which clearly delineates the term of membership in the non-permanent category. Any deviation from such a norm would run the risk of negatively impacting the functionality of the Council as the principle body responsible for maintaining peace and security.

I would appreciate the circulation of the present letter as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 112 (a).

(*Signed*) Amr **Aboulatta**
Permanent Representative

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